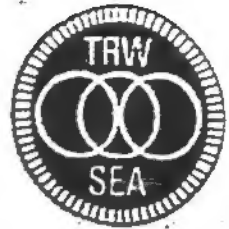




CROSSTALK

A Publication of the TRW Amateur Radio Club



MAY 1993

CALENDAR:

Every Monday: DCS Net on 145.32 Repeater @ 7:30 PM

Every Wednesday: Emergency Communications Team Net on 145.32
Repeater at Noon

Every Friday: Club Breakfast in Bldg S Cafeteria, 7 to 8 AM

May 4: Club Picnic at Poliwog Park, noon. The picnic takes the
place of the eyeball QSO meeting this month

May 11: Emergency Communications Team meeting, R3/1413, Noon

May 11: Executive Board Meeting, E2/1200, 5:30 PM

May 21: Technical Chairman's Meeting, Bldg 65 Shack, Noon

May 21-23: West Coast VHF/UHF Conference, Ventura, CA

May 25: Club meeting, E2/1200, Noon

May 30: Swap Meet, parking lot on NW corner of Aviation and
Marine, 7 to 11 AM

May 30: T-Hunt following the Swap Meet @ Noon, Meet in O3 parking
lot near the Porta Potties

EDITORS NOTES: The deadline for Crosstalk submissions is the eyeball QSO meeting the month before publication. Please plan ahead if you want your contest team attempt or activity publicized in our club newsletter.

The attendance at the eyeball QSO meeting has been great. Now that it's warmer we will be holding noontime picnics in Poliwog Park in May, July and September in place of the eyeball QSO get together. Hope to see you there or on HF CW. 73 de KJ6GR.

VE TESTING:

VE Testing is now being held at Jun's on the third Saturday of each month at 10 AM. The testing is held in the room above the store.

Crosstalk will be happy to publish notices for VE testing or other amateur radio activity, just send a note to your editor.

Ramblings from KJ6GR

The HF propagation has been changing fast over the past few months. Band openings on the traditional DX bands (10/15/20 M) have been fewer and shorter as sunspot cycle 22 steadily declines towards its minimum. There are still openings to many parts of the world most days but you must tune around more since activity on these bands is also down. A good propagation program like MINIPROP or IONSOUND can be very helpful in identifying likely propagation path openings. It is more important than ever to listen to WWV for the "a" and "K" indices which are an indicator of the degree of magnetic disturbance in the ionosphere. An a-index less than 10 usually means good propagation and greater than 30 usually means disturbed conditions, corresponding K-index values are 2 or less and three or more respectively.

I have gone almost exclusively to the lower bands. I operate 30 Meters during the day for short skip and early morning and evening for long skip and DX. I've worked JA, ZS, and several Carribean Islands from my 50 watt mobile rig on the way to work at around 6:45 AM on this great CW band. Later in the evening 40 Meters is really great with good short and long skip openings. Early mornings on 40 bring in Europe and East Asian stations, a simple dipole or vertical and 100 watts will usually get a QSO especially if you listen carefully and find them before the feeding frenzy (ie: pileup) begins.

This is also a good time to try some VHF/UHF SSB or CW. OSCAR operation is another alternative, especially for the DXers since the satellite transponders are seldom crowded and there is usually an assortment of DX active when the satellite is in view.

Don't ignore your antennas during this time. Regular maintainance like cleaning exposed contacts and inspecting coax for cracks or other signs of deterioration will ensure that the antenna will work when you want to use it. There is a good article in April 1993 QST about the use of anti-oxidant, corrosion preventing compounds on aluminum antennas-use them if you want to avoid trouble with your antennas after only a year or two.

I've heard several new TS-50 transceivers on the air recently and they sound great and their owners are very enthusiastic. This is a great rig to consider if you have limited space or would like to try HF Mobile operation.

WA6TWF

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Nine First Quality
Repeaters

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Repeaters*

*Full Size - 3 Element
80 Meter Beam*

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Hollywood Hills
Torrance**

**Fullerton Hills
Palos Verdes
Pasadena
Fountain Valley
Santa Ana**

THE YL DX-PEDITION

"C Q C Q C Q This is **VP2M**... the YL DXpedition in Montserrat. QRZ?" Will you be there to answer them? They certainly hope so. The 'they' is [in alphabetical order] Nancee Graff N6ZRB, Janet Munday AB6MP, Gayle Olson KM6WF and Ellen Tessitore N6XJM.

During the last week in July these four fearless females will depart LAX for San Juan, Puerto Rico, then Antigua and finally their DX destination on the isle of Montserrat.

Montserrat is volcanic in origin, with peaks reaching 3000 feet across. The indigenous people of Montserrat were the Arawaks and the Caribs when it was called Alliouagana. Columbus sighted Montserrat in 1493, and since it reminded him of hills near Barcelona called Montserrat which in Spanish means "saw-toothed mountains", he gave the island the same name. In 1632 Irish settlers from St. Kitts arrived followed by Irish refugees escaping Cromwell's troops. Currently Montserrat is a self governing British colony.

Located 27 miles southwest of Antigua, and 1200 miles from Miami, Montserrat is 32 miles square with a huge population of 12,500, and is in the Atlantic time zone. It is known as the Emerald Isle of the Caribbean. These four city women will at least be able to speak English there as it is the official language. However when they return watch out for expressions like: *dey maie bee jamin*, *mon* might creep into their vocabulary.

They shall attempt to work as many bands as possible in SSB, CW and RTTY modes. Many suggestions have been made such as working splits, taking lists etc. A firm decision had been made. It is to set up shop, try it, and when all else fails fly by the seat of their pants. Please stay tuned for future announcements as more specifics are planned.

Each of the YLs got into amateur radio in very different ways. **Ellen N6XJM** was an unhappy 'ham widow' who would go on camping trips with her OM only to have him park the RV, erect the antenna, set up the radio, then completely ignore her. Although her OM pushed her to become a ham, Ellen finally half heartedly attended a class that was given near where her son and some female friends lived. Her underlying motivation was to visit them. Fat chance. She really liked the class, studied and saw neither her friends nor her son. Needless to say she passed. Ellen then made her OM her EX-OM. But alas, Ellen moved away then moved back and her co-workers at TRW got her hooked on ham radio again.

Gayle KM6WF, on the other hand, was always interested in amateur radio but never knew a single ham until three years ago. All at once her assistant principal at work as well as a co-worker were scanner fans, her principal was a ham, her husband exposed her to marine radios, and suddenly she had several maritime ham friends due to the sport fishing interests of her XOM. [Gayle calls her OM her XOM. This is because, as she not

quite humbly contends, if YLs become XYLs when they wed, OMs should likewise convert to XOMs. He, on the other hand, prefers being referred to as her YM.] Suddenly everyone in her life was talking radio. The time was right. She got on the air and got hooked.

Nancee N6ZRB got interested in ham radio when a husband and wife couple who were friends of hers and hams decided that she needed a hobby so that she could meet new people. At the end of a weekend class, she stood next to an OM who asked Nancee if she thought she passed. She replied that she knew she missed three questions. He was amazed and watched while she was graded. Nancy was correct. Weeks later she ran into an OM whose call sign was very close to her's. Sure enough, they remembered standing in line next to each other. Nancee's funniest experience was the time she had a dual band HT that had a strange propensity to make the telephone ring shut itself off every time she transmitted on 2 meters!

Janet AB6MP's father got her interested in amateur radio as something that he and Janet and her brother could do together. She was only 13 when she passed her first test. Imagine her horror at that tender age to receive the call sign WV2-B-R-A. She let her license lapse and re-upped 33 years later. Incidentally the method of how she learned code is most fascinating. The family TV had broken. Janet's father, in order to keep his bored son and daughter mentally occupied, wrote the code on the bathroom tiles. It was not until years later that they figured out why Janet learned the code and her brother did not. He faced the wrong way!

The YL's appreciate all the warm support that they have received from their respective clubs. Gayle KM6WF belongs to the Downey Amateur Radio Club, Catalina Amateur Repeater Association, West Coast Amateur Radio Club and Palomar Amateur Radio Club as well as sponsoring a high school radio club at Edison High School; Janet AB6MP belongs to the South Orange Amateur Radio Association and West Coast Amateur Radio Club; Ellen N6XJM belongs to the TRW Radio Club, Catalina Amateur Repeater Association, Claremont Amateur Radio Association, and West Coast Amateur Radio Club. Nancee N6ZRB belongs to Orange County RACES, Catalina Amateur Repeater Association, and West Coast Amateur Radio Club. They also appreciate the support of all the OM's who have volunteered to go along to be: gofers, antenna setter uppers, pedicurists, masseuses evening escorts, body guards etc. Although the trip is definitely YLs only, of all the offers made they have accepted the mascot of N6OPR which is Old Peter Rabbit his moniker and mascot. They are sure it will bring good luck.

So work them, hams, work them until they beg for mercy!

(A new abbreviation for wife, YF, is gaining acceptance and certainly seems more appropriate. Editor.)

Ventura County Amateur Radio Club Presents: **Conference 93** 1993 West Coast VHF/UHF Conference May 21-23

Ventura Holiday Inn, 450 E. Harbor Blvd., Ventura CA 93001



- ☐ State-of-the-art **TECHNICAL TALKS** all day Saturday.
- ☐ **VENDOR EXHIBITS** Saturday and Sunday.
- ☐ **SWAP MEET** Sunday morning. This year even larger - and indoors!
- ☐ **BANQUET** with speaker, Saturday night(advance reservations required).
- ☐ **BREAKFAST** with speaker and awards Sunday morning.
- ☐ **NOISE FIGURE MEASUREMENTS** - with N.F. vs frequency pen plots.
- ☐ **ANTENNA RANGE** - Gain measurements, plus pattern pen plots for all.
- ☐ **NO-CODE TECHNICIAN** weekend class by Loraine McCarthy, N6CIO.
Class fee of \$125 includes materials. Contact Loraine at 714-979-2633.
- ☐ **AWARDS** - pre-registration and Banquet awards.

Mark Your Calendar Now To Attend

Friday, May 21: Registration begins at noon. Hospitality Room opens.
 Saturday, May 22: Registration, Talks, Exhibits, Banquet, Awards, Noise Figure, Hospitality Room.
 Sunday, May 23: Breakfast, Swap Meet, Exhibits, Antenna Range.

The Ventura Holiday Inn is right on the beach, has a heated pool, free parking, exercise room, game room, laundry, free HBO, gift shop, and is within walking distance of Ventura's famous Antique Row, pier, Mission, and museum.

SPECIAL HOTEL CONFERENCE RATE OF ONLY \$58! (Per night, double occupancy, plus room tax. Be sure to mention the Conference. Valid until May 7.) **Hotel reservations: 1-800-842-0800**

Register early - last year the hotel was sold out!

EVENT	COST	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Registration (by May 7 for pre-reg Awards)	\$15	x _____ =	_____
Banquet (Advance reservations required)	\$25	x _____ =	_____
Breakfast (reservations received by May 7)	\$10	x _____ =	_____
Proceedings (available at conference)	\$10	x _____ =	_____
			TOTAL \$ _____

Make checks payable to Ventura County Amateur Radio Club. Your cancelled check is your receipt.
 Send to: VCARC, P.O. Box 2103, Oxnard CA 93033. Info: 805-647-4294

Name _____ Call _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

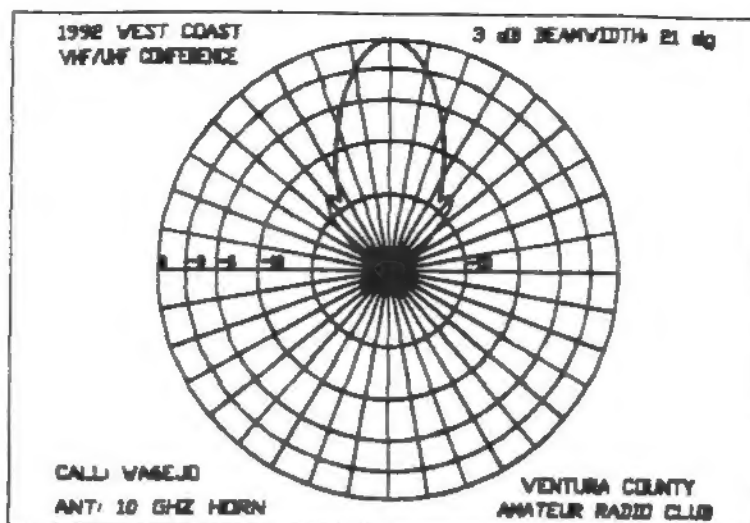
Phone _____ Occupation _____

NOTES: Banquet and Breakfast reservations are required by May 7, as tickets may not be available at the door. Don't miss out on the prizes! No refunds after May 7. For exhibit space call 805-264-1978. For Swapmeet space call 805-485-4462.

Computerized Antenna Pattern Measurements at the West Coast VHF/UHF Conference

We'll be plotting your VHF, UHF, and microwave antenna patterns, as well as measuring gain, at the Conference. Bring your favorite antenna and leave with a color plot of its pattern!

A rotor, a computer, an analog to digital conversion card, and a color plotter are combined to make an automated antenna pattern plotting system.



A color plotter will make pattern plots, labelling each with antenna description and 3 dB beamwidth. We will cover 2M- 10 GHz, starting with 10 GHz at 9 AM and ending with 2M or at 3 PM, whichever comes first.

The 300' long range will be located on the top of the parking garage next to the hotel. This event will be held Sunday May 23.

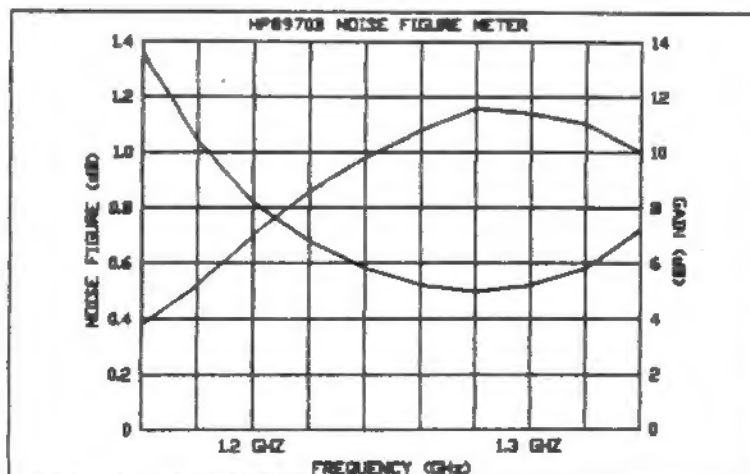
>> NEW FOR 1993... INDOOR SWAP MEET! <<

While swap meets have been a traditional part of West Coast VHF Conferences, they have been very small, unorganized, and with few vendors. This will all change in 1993 with the introduction of a new swap meet to be located *inside* of the Conference hotel! Here are the details... Admission is free for buyers who are registered for the Conference. Non-registered persons pay \$1. Swap tables are \$10 for persons registered for the Conference, \$20 if not registered. 6' tables will be provided at no extra charge. The swap meet will run from 8 AM to 11 AM Sunday May 23rd. Important: Sellers must make reservations in advance by calling Dick George, WA6JOX, 805-485-4462.

Computerized Noise Figure Measurements at the West Coast VHF/UHF Conference

The Saturday evening NF Measurements are a tradition at VHF Conferences. But we won't just be doing measurements, we will also be making plots of NF & Gain vs Frequency!

H-P will provide the latest NF Meter which we integrate with a computer and a graphics printer.



Bring preamps and converters with standard connectors (female SMA, N, BNC, or UHF.) Provide clearly marked power terminals that we can clip to (no Molex or DIN connectors.) You must supply any required bias tee. This event will be held Sat. May 22, following the Conference Banquet.